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a bill of health from this port which indicated that there was an epidemic of bubonic plague here.

On the 6th instant the steamship *Capac* left this port for the east coast of the United States, as ordered at Santa Lucia.

I also have to report that on or about the 11th instant the steamship *Cumbal* will leave this port direct for New York.

COLOMBIA.

Report from Bocas del Toro, fruit port—Smallpox situation improving.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Osterhout reports as follows: Week ended September 22, 1903. Present officially estimated population not obtainable. Number of deaths from all causes, 2; prevailing disease, malarial fever.

The smallpox situation can be considered well in hand. No new cases have been reported for several days. Systematic vaccination of all persons in the neighboring villages in all parts of the lagoons is now being done.

Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Name of vessel.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
Sept. 16	Lillie	23	0	0	0
16	Fort Morgan	23	0	0	0
18	Harald	19	0	0	0
20	Belvernon	21	0	0	0

COSTA RICA.

Report from Limon, fruit port—Yellow fever.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Gruver reports as follows: Week ended September 24, 1903. Estimated population, 4,000; 6 cases of yellow fever, 5 deaths; number of deaths from other causes, 7; prevailing diseases, yellow fever and malaria.

General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, very poor.

Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Name of vessel.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
Sept. 18	Beacon	26	0	0	0
19	Taunton	26	0	0	0
21	Alene	42	9	1	0
23	Bound Brook	31	0	0	0

CUBA.

Report from Cienfuegos—Inspection of vessels—Mortality statistics.

Acting Assistant Surgeon McMahon reports, September 23, as follows: During the week ended September 12 there were 10 deaths in

the city. One from malaria, 1 pernicious fever (age 5 months), 1 paludism, 1 erysipelas (16 days age), 1 infantile tetanus.

During the week ended September 19 there were 13 deaths in the city.

Two bills of health were issued to vessels going to ports in the United States during the week ended September 19. Both in good sanitary condition and no sickness on either.

No quarantinable disease has arrived at this port during this week.

Sanitary conditions at Santiago, Cienfuegos, and Caibarien.

The following consular report is received from Minister Squiers, under date of September 16, 1903:

SANITARY CONDITIONS.

The city of Cienfuegos is situated at the head of the bay and is built for the most part upon lowlands. The suburbs, or that part of the city farthest from the bay, are built on more elevated ground. Along the shore of the bay very insanitary conditions are found, the yards of most houses being filled to a great extent with accumulated filth and the streets that terminate on the shore line being in the same condition. Many of the surface drains that connect with the bay have a rise and fall of tide for a distance of about 200 feet, and garbage washed by the rains from the surface of the streets accumulates and lies exposed to the action of the sun from day to day, producing offensive odors, due to putrefaction. Material actually carried into the bay never gets very far from the shore, and therefore can not be influenced by the ebb of the tide, hence much of this waste matter is redeposited along the shores of the harbor.

The rise and fall of the tides along the entire Cuban coast, I am told, does not exceed 18 inches. Where the yards of the inhabitants extend along the shore of the bay the people, in most cases, rid themselves of the garbage and other material by throwing it a few feet out into the water, whence it is blown back again to the shore to become a nuisance to themselves and their neighbors. The same conditions prevail at the slaughterhouse, a very primitive and poorly constructed building built on the water's edge on the north side of this city, within two blocks of the public hospital. The blood and other residue of the slaughtered animals are washed into the adjacent waters, which, owing to the scanty fresh-water supply in that establishment, are frequently used to clean the meat that is supplied to the inhabitants.

That part of the city lying adjacent to the railroad yards is very low, and the tide waters are within 1 foot of the surface of the ground—that is, excavations made to a depth of 1 foot encounter water. In the gutters of the streets in this section of the city stagnant water is frequently allowed to remain until it is covered with a green scum, and the odors arising therefrom are in the highest degree injurious to the health of the residents of that portion of the city.

No cesspools in this section of the city are water-tight, and there, as well as in most other parts of the city, cesspools are allowed to remain in the worst sanitary condition. The water-closet is a rare exception and only to be found in the houses of well-to-do people. This is partly due to the scanty water supply. Undrained sink holes are to